Application No.: 10/676,170

Office Action Dated: January 23, 2008

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended): A surgical retractor, comprising:

a handle having a longitudinal axis, [[and]] proximal and distal ends, and a

longitudinally elongated outer surface for being held by an operator;

a first coupling mechanism coupled to the proximal end of the handle, wherein the

first coupling mechanism comprises a knob having a bore, wherein at least a portion of the

knob is disposed within the handle, and wherein the knob is rotatable about the longitudinal

axis of the handle; and

a blade member having a proximal end and a distal end,

wherein (i) the blade member comprises a coupling element, and the coupling element

is configured and dimensioned to be received in the bore of the knob, and (ii) rotation of the

knob in a first direction causes the coupling element to advance into the bore of the knob.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Canceled)

4. (Previous Presented): The retractor of claim 1, wherein the coupling element comprises a

shaft.

5. (Original): The retractor of claim 4, wherein the shaft and the bore comprise mating

threads for releasably advancing the shaft within the bore.

6. (Original): The retractor of claim 5, wherein the handle comprises an opening, and the

opening is configured and dimensioned to receive the knob.

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7. (Previous Presented): The retractor of claim 1, wherein the blade member comprises an

aperture adjacent the distal end of the blade configured and dimensioned to allow a surgical

tool to pass through the aperture.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Original): The retractor of claim 7, wherein the aperture is configured and dimensioned

to allow an orthopedic implant to pass through the aperture.

10. (Original): The retractor of claim 1, wherein the distal end of the blade member

comprises a structure for stabilizing the retractor blade against bone.

11. (Original): The retractor of claim 1, wherein the distal end of the blade member

comprises a hook-shape.

12. (Original): The retractor of claim 11, wherein the hook-shape comprises a "C"-shape.

13. (Original): The retractor of claim 11, wherein the hook-shape comprises a "L"-shape.

14. (Original): The retractor of claim 1, further comprising a second coupling mechanism

located on the handle for coupling a second surgical instrument to the handle.

15. (Original): The retractor of claim 14, wherein the second surgical instrument comprises

an endoscope.

16. (Original): The retractor of claim 15, wherein the endoscope is positioned to provide a

view of the distal end of the retractor blade.

17. (Original): The retractor of claim 15, further comprising an endoscope secured to the

handle.

18. (Canceled)

19. (Original): The retractor of claim 1, further comprising a second coupling mechanism,

and the second coupling mechanism comprises a coupling member.

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20. (Canceled)

21. (Previous Presented): The retractor of claim 19, wherein the coupling member is

telescopically received within the handle.

22. (Canceled)

23. (Previous Presented): The retractor of claim 19, wherein the coupling member contacts a

second member.

24. (Canceled)

25. (Previously Presented): The retractor of claim 23, wherein the coupling member and the

second member are operatively associated to fix a second surgical instrument with respect to

the handle.

26. (Original): The retractor of claim 25, wherein the coupling member comprises a recess

adapted to receive a portion of the second surgical instrument.

27. (Original): The retractor of claim 26, wherein the recess has an inner surface, and the

inner surface is adapted to clamp the portion of the second surgical instrument to the second

member.

28. (Original): The retractor of claim 1, further comprising another surgical instrument

having a coupling element configured and dimensioned to connect with the first coupling

mechanism.

29. (Original): The retractor of claim 28, wherein the other surgical instrument comprises a

retractor blade.

30. (Original): The retractor of claim 1, further comprising a second handle transverse to the

longitudinal axis.

31. (Currently amended): A method for treating bone comprising:

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providing a surgical retractor comprising:

a handle having a longitudinal axis, [[and]] proximal and distal ends, and a longitudinally elongated outer surface for being held by an operator;

a first coupling mechanism coupled to the proximal end of the handle, wherein the first coupling mechanism comprises a knob having a threaded axial bore, wherein at least a portion of the knob is disposed within the handle and wherein the knob is rotatable about the longitudinal axis of the handle; and

a blade member having a proximal end and a distal end, wherein the blade member comprises a threaded coupling element, and the threaded coupling element is configured and dimensioned to be received in the threaded axial bore of the knob;

positioning an endoscope with respect to the blade member for viewing a surgical site;

making an incision in soft tissue and elevating the soft tissue fascia off a bone segment proximate the surgical site;

passing a portion of the blade member through the incision;

retracting the fascia off the bone segment with the blade member to form a cavity; circumventing at least in part a bone segment with a portion of the blade member; stabilizing the blade member on the bone segment;

viewing the bone segment through the endoscope; and performing a surgical procedure proximate the bone segment.

32. (Original): The method of claim 31, further comprising securing the endoscope with respect to the blade member.

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33. (Original): The method of claim 31, wherein performing the surgical procedure

comprises passing an orthopedic implant through the cavity.

34. (Original): The method of claim 31, further comprising performing a part of the surgical

procedure through an aperture of the blade member.

35. (Original): The method of claim 34, wherein performing the surgical procedure

comprises passing a surgical tool through an aperture of the blade member.

36. (Previous Presented): The method of claim 35, wherein the tool comprises at least one of

the group consisting of a drill, a burr, a syringe and a cannula.

37. (Canceled)

38. (Canceled)

39. (Canceled)

40. (Original): The method of claim 34, wherein performing the surgical procedure

comprises passing an orthopedic implant through the aperture.

41. (Previous Presented): The method of claim 40, wherein the implant comprises at least

one of the group consisting of a bone fastener, a screw and a bone void filler material.

42. (Canceled)

43. (Canceled)

44. (Original): The method of claim 31, wherein performing the surgical procedure

comprises securing an orthopedic implant to the bone segment.

45. (Original): The method of claim 44, wherein performing the surgical procedure

comprises fixating a fracture proximate the bone segment.

46. (Original): The method of claim 45, wherein the bone segment comprises a condylar

neck.

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47. (Original): The method of claim 44, wherein performing the surgical procedure

comprises performing an orthognathic procedure.

48. (Original): The method of claim 44, wherein performing the surgical procedure

comprises a condylar grafting procedure.

49. (Original): The method of claim 48, wherein the bone segment comprises a ramus.

50. (Original): The method of claim 48, wherein the bone segment comprises a condylar

neck.

51. (Canceled)

52. (Currently amended): A surgical retractor comprising:

a handle having a longitudinal axis, a proximal end, a distal end, and an opening;

a first coupling mechanism coupled to the proximal end of the handle, wherein the

first coupling mechanism is rotatable about the longitudinal axis of the handle;

a second coupling mechanism disposed on a backside of the handle proximate the

proximal end of the handle, the second coupling mechanism having a through-hole and at

least a portion which is axially moveable within the opening of the handle, wherein the

through-hole of the second coupling mechanism is sized and configured to receive a surgical

instrument; and

a blade member having a proximal end and a distal end,

wherein the blade member comprises a coupling element proximate the proximal end

of the blade member, and the coupling element is configured and dimensioned to connect

with the first coupling mechanism.

53. (Previously Presented): The retractor of claim 52, wherein the surgical instrument is an

endoscope.

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54. (Previously Presented): The retractor of claim 52, wherein the second coupling

mechanism comprises a clamping member telescopically received within the handle.

55. (Previously Presented): The retractor of claim 54, wherein the clamping member is not

in contact with the handle.

56. (Previously Presented): The retractor of claim 55, wherein the clamping member

contacts a second member.

57. (Previously Presented): The retractor of claim 56, wherein the second member contacts

the handle.

58. (Previously Presented): The retractor of claim 56, wherein the clamping member and the

second member are operatively associated with each other to fix the surgical instrument with

respect to the handle.

59. (Previously Presented): The retractor of claim 58, wherein the clamping member

comprises a recess adapted to receive a portion of the surgical instrument, the recess having

an inner surface adapted to clamp at least a portion of the surgical instrument to the second

member.